

STORAGE AREA NETWORK METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR COMMUNICATION  
AND INTERFACING WITH MULTIPLE PLATFORMS

**Abstract of the Invention**

5

A storage area network (SAN) has a plurality of components including digital data processors, e.g., hosts, coupled to a plurality of storage device. Common, platform-independent processes execute on the hosts, which can be of varied platform types, e.g., Unix™, Windows™, Solaris, and so forth. Those processes utilizes the command line interface of the host operating system to  
10 invoke platform-dependent processes on the respective hosts. The platform-dependent processes return data to the platform-independent processes, e.g., via Standard Output or Standard Error of the host operating system command line interface.

15